

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the specification and claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 10 and 14, all other claims being cancelled. The cancellation of claims 11 to 13 obviates the need for additional drawings.

The claims have been amended to provide antecedent basis for all the terms thereby overcoming the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Gotoh patent as well as claims 1, 6, 9 and 10. The Examiner states that Gotoh disclosure similar device comprising

- an elastic sealing disk running around with an outer bearing ring or a housing, having a reinforcement and positionally fixed with positive engagement in a receptacle or an annular groove
- the sealing disk engaging with a flexible seal in a recess of an inner bearing ring and being supported by means of a sealing edge on a wall
- the first sealing lip is supported axially on the outer wall of the recess and a second

sealing lip is assigned to the inner wall of the recess with play and

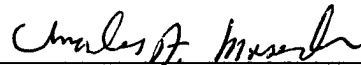
- a mass of the first sealing lip forming a center of mass, which, in a fitted position of the sealing arrangement, is offset in relation to a supporting line determined by the sealing disk so that the centrifugal force acting at the center of mass initiates a force component acting in the clockwise direction.

Applicants traverse these rejections as the Gotoh patent neither anticipates or renders obvious Applicants' invention. The invention resides in a second sealing lip (15) which is attached inside a relief groove (16) with backlash to a wall (9) which is vertically mounted to the greatest possible extent. Differently from this, Gotoh according to Fig. 11, shows a second sealing lip (214) which is not housed in a relief groove (113) but rather with backlash to a horizontally mounted wall or shoulder (214) of the bearing ring (3). Furthermore, the invention claims an associated center of mass of the first sealing lip (25). In the only Figure of the application, the sealing lip (14) shows in addition a thickened end section of the sealing lip (14) indicated as a centre of mass on the opposite side from the sealing edge (17).

Claim 7 is based on the specific embodiment of the sealing lip (14) which features a side bolster (24) laterally external on the side turned to the second sealing lip (14). Claim 4 concerns the embodiment of the sealing shim (3), of which the first and the second sealing lips (14, 15) are connected above a common sealing lip foot. Therefore, Gotoh does not anticipate the invention and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicants' patentable contribution. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures